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LETTER DATED 14 APRIL 1994 FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter addressed to you by His Excellency Dr. Salim A. Salim, Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, requesting you to kindly arrange to have the attached Statement circulated as a document of the Security Council, under Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(Signed) Ibrahima SY
Ambassador
Executive Secretary of the OAU
to the United Nations

Annex

Letter dated 14 April 1994 from the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith, a statement by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the situation in Rwanda adopted after a meeting today, 14 April 1994, of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution.

I should be most grateful if you could kindly arrange to have this Statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Salim Ahmed SALIM

Enclosure

Statement dated 14 April 1994 of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (Ambassadorial level)

1. The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution met today, 14 April 1994, in Addis Ababa at Ambassadorial level, to consider the grave situation now prevailing in Rwanda. In this connection, it heard and considered the Report of the Secretary General of the Organization.

2. The Central Organ expressed shock and profound sadness, over the tragic accident in suspicious circumstances in Kigali, on 6 April 1994, which resulted in the immediate death of the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi as well as senior Government officials of the two countries.

3. The Central Organ while expressing its outrage and indignation at this development, calls for the immediate institution of an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the circumstances leading to the air crash.

4. The Central Organ is equally concerned and shocked by the ensuing spate of killings and massacres, including those of the Prime Minister, Mme Agathe UWILINGIYIMANA, some of her Ministers, Senior Government Officials, UN peacekeepers as well as thousands of ordinary Rwandese nationals including women and children, which has taken place and continues to be carried out in Rwanda. It condemns, without reservation, this carnage and blood letting which have brought death and untold suffering to the Rwandese people.

5. The Central Organ is gravely concerned over the resumption of armed hostilities between the forces of the Rwanda Government and those of the Rwandese Patriotic Front.

6. It calls for an immediate end of the massacres, wanton killings and senseless violence still taking place in the country.

7. The Central Organ calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities between the forces of the Rwanda Government and the Rwandese Patriotic Front. This will, inter alia, enable humanitarian relief and medical assistance to be provided to the wounded and the internally displaced people. In this connection, the Central Organ appeals to the international community to focus attention on the Rwandese civilian drama and to provide increased and adequate resources to cater for the urgent humanitarian needs of the Rwandese people.

8. The Central Organ calls for the immediate commencement of negotiations leading to the establishment, without any further delay, of the transitional institutions as provided for under the Arusha Peace Agreement, namely the Presidency, the Transitional National Assembly and the broad-based Transitional Government. In this connection, the Central Organ reaffirms that the Arusha Peace Agreement remains the only viable framework for the resolution of the Rwanda Conflict and serves as the basis for peace, national unity and reconciliation in the country.

9. The Central Organ considers the continued involvement of the United Nations including in particular, the role of UNAMIR (United Nations Mission in Rwanda) as an essential element in the restoration of peace in the country and the implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement. In this respect, the Central Organ appeals to the United Nations Security Council to ensure the continued and effective functioning of UNAMIR.

10. The Central Organ is conscious of the security and humanitarian implications of events in Rwanda for the subregion. In this connection, it commends the efforts made by the leaders of the subregion at finding a solution to the crisis in both Rwanda and Burundi, as exemplified in the Dar es Salaam Summit of 6 April 1994, convened by President Mwinyi of Tanzania and in which both President Habyarimana and Ntaryamira had attended and made invaluable contribution. It calls on the leaders of the region and especially President Mwinyi, in his capacity as facilitator to the Arusha Peace Talks, to persevere and intensify their efforts, particularly considering the present tragic situation which prevails in Rwanda.

11. The Central Organ requests the Secretary General to continue to follow very closely, the developments in Rwanda and make whatever contribution within the Organization's means to assists in the efforts towards the implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement.